

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

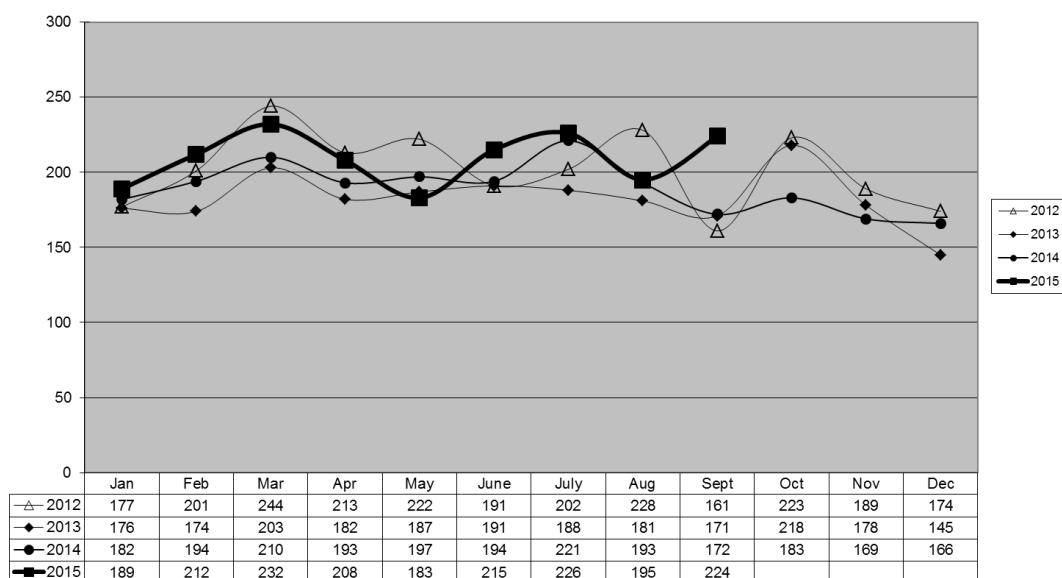
29 October 2015

COUNCILLOR MR RICHRD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period September 15 to 18 October 2015

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Planning Applications

There has been a sharp increase in the number of planning applications received in September and this trend has so far continued into October. This is having an impact on resources and various steps are being taken to ensure the increase in workload can still be delivered within the statutory timeframes. There will also be a need to monitor the response times from our consultees over the next 4-6 weeks, to ensure they can still respond promptly, thereby ensuring decisions on applications are not delayed.

Despite the increase in the number of planning applications received, at present appeals remain consistent with the previous year (59 in 2014). This will however also be monitored going forward.

Local Development Framework

Hearings for the re-convened Site Allocations and Development Management Policies Plan took place on 30 September, 1 and 2 October.

Among the subjects covered in those 3 days were:

- Legal requirements, Borough Council's broad strategy
- Broad distribution of housing
- Consideration of sites proposed at King's Lynn; West Lynn; and West Winch
- Development Management policies

A second set of Hearings will commence on 3 November, and a final set of planned Hearings will occur later in November.

There is a complex set of subjects and places being considered, and the Inspector, as part of normal Examination procedure, is requesting explanations and notes about various matters.

This material is being prepared and the Inspector will publish it towards the end of the Hearing sessions.

On a broader point a set of minor and major modifications will be published for formal consultation once the Hearings conclude. This list will need to be agreed by the Borough Council beforehand.

A more detailed timetable will follow.

Housing Land Supply

As Councillors will be aware we do not currently have a 'Five years supply' of housing land. An initial letter to landowners and agents of proposed Local Plan allocations has been sent, and a degree of publicity given about the issue in the local media.

This has resulted in a significant number of planning applications being received in recent weeks. If agreed these would boost supply.

The cumulative position will be closely monitored.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Council
Cabinet
Scrutiny Workshop
Cabinet Sifting
Norfolk Strategy Planning Members Forum
Various meetings with Officers

